

**Office of Thrift Supervision**

Department of the Treasury


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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Ellen Seidman 

SUBJECT: Community Affairs Publications

During 1998, the Office of Thrift Supervision's Community Affairs staff has focused on four primary areas of community development: urban homeownership, rural development, lending on tribal lands, and welfare reform. Among other activities, OTS sponsored major industry conferences on the first three topics, and conducted a number of smaller forums relating to welfare reform considerations, including microenterprise and individual development accounts.

Each of these sessions was an opportunity for thrift industry representatives and community development practitioners to share information, learn from one another, and foster new community partnerships, and I am pleased by the enthusiastic responses of those who were able to attend. In an effort to preserve and further disseminate some of the information covered in these sessions, OTS' Community Affairs staff has developed two publications that should be of interest to many of you.

Best Practices in Rural Development profiles programs and initiatives designed to provide capital and credit to rural areas. It incorporates the USDA's *Understanding Rural America* as a critical backdrop for these discussions.

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs): Strategy for Asset Accumulation provides an introduction to this evolving concept that can help low income individuals buy a home, start a business, or continue their education.

For further information or additional copies, please contact your regional Community Affairs Liaison. Both publications are also available on the OTS website at <http://www.ots.treas.gov>.

Enclosures